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(19)



Europäisches Patentamt  
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(12)

## EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

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PCT/GB96/01634

(87) International publication number:  
WO 97/02980 (30.01.1997 Gazette 1997/06)

### (54) FLEXIBLE VESSELS FOR TRANSPORTING FLUENT CARGOES

DEHNBARE BEHÄLTER ZUM TRANSPORT VON FLÜSSIGEN LADUNGEN

CONTENEURS SOUPLES SERVANT A TRANSPORTER DES CHARGEMENTS DE MATIERES  
COULANTES

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NL PT SE

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(56) References cited:

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GB-A- 2 181 996	US-A- 2 682 751
US-A- 3 289 721	US-A- 3 983 830

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EP 0 832 032 B1

## CLAIMS:

1. Apparatus for transporting fluent cargo through  
5 liquid comprising one or more units arranged substantially in  
linear alignment, wherein at least one said unit comprises two  
or more flexible containers close coupled side by side.
2. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in use,  
10 adjacent facing sides of respective containers of said at  
least one unit are substantially parallel along at least part  
of their length.
3. Apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein no two  
15 consecutive linearly aligned units comprise a single flexible  
container.
4. Apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein  
each container has angled, front and rear end sections.  
20
5. Apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein  
each container is parallel sided.
6. Apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein  
25 the container is diamond-shaped or hexagonal.
7. Apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein  
the containers are connected at their broadest extent.
8. Apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein  
30 the apparatus comprises alternating sequential units of one  
and two containers.
9. Apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein  
35 the apparatus comprises three units of one container and two  
units of two containers.

- 9 -

10. Apparatus substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

1/1

FIG. 1

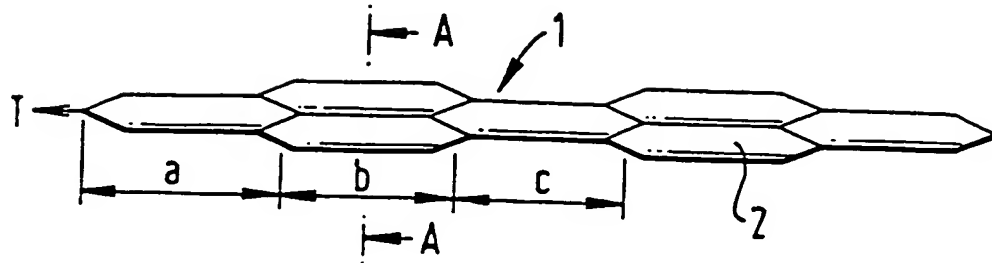


FIG. 2

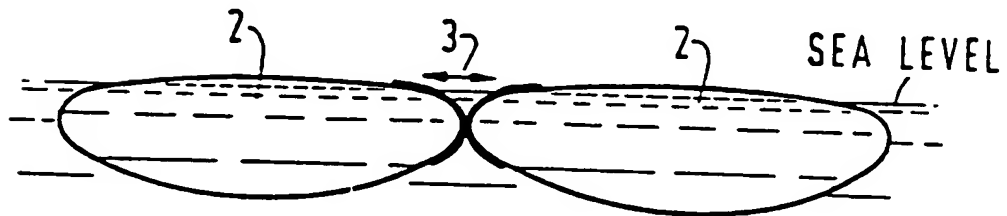


FIG. 3

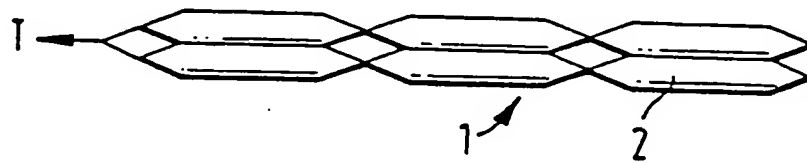


FIG. 4

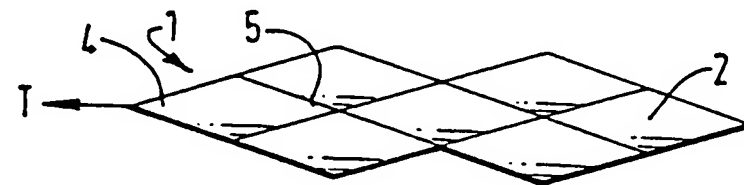


FIG. 5

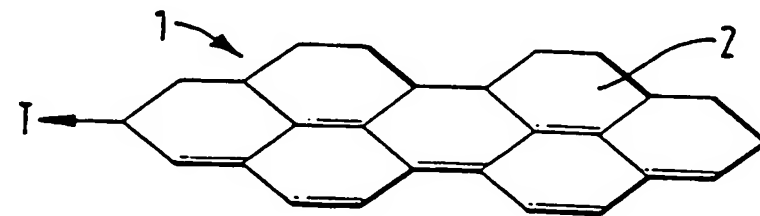
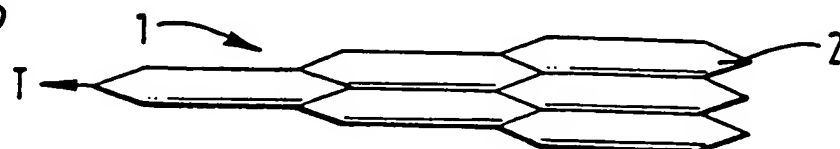


FIG. 6



In International Application No  
PCT/GB 96/01634

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 6 B63B35/28

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6      B63B      B65D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

### C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X Y	FR,A,2 210 180 (GRIHANGNE) 5 July 1974 see page 3, line 24 - page 4, line 2; figures 1,2 ---	1,2,10 3-7
X	FR,A,2 377 931 (LEDUN) 18 August 1978 see the whole document ---	1,2
Y	US,A,3 983 830 (MORGAN) 5 October 1976 see figures 1-6 ---	3,7
Y	US,A,3 289 721 (BENSON) 6 December 1966 see figures 1,2 ---	4,5
Y	GB,A,2 181 996 (YANG) 7 May 1987 see figures 1-2,1-3 ---	6
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☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

24 October 1996

Date of mailing of the international search report

**29.10.96**

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DE SENA, A

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No  
PCT/GB 96/01634

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US,A,2 682 751 (BOCK) 6 July 1954 see figures 11,12 -----	1-3,5, 7-9

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB 96/01634

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		NL-A- 7317020	14-06-74
		US-A- 3952679	27-04-76
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US-A-3289721	06-12-66	NONE	
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